

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/775,216

Response filed August 14, 2007

Reply to OA dated May 2, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 29 - 38 are currently pending in this patent application, claims 29, 33, 35 and 36 being independent claims.

Claims 29, 32, 33, 35 and 36 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 30, 2007.

The following rejections are set forth in the outstanding Office Action:

- (1) claims 29 - 34, 36 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tominaga (U.S. Patent No. 5,237,208); and
- (2) claims 35 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Tominaga in view of Luo (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0073783).

The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections.

As discussed in the last Amendment filed for this case, the applicants' claimed invention:

(1) makes it possible to simultaneously shut down any plural power source circuits only by connecting these any plural power source circuits of a plurality of the power source circuits by means of the fault terminal HLT; and (2) also makes it possible to simultaneously oscillate the control circuit of a master power source circuit and the control circuits of slave power source circuits only by selecting any power source circuit of a plurality of the power source circuits as a master power source circuit and any one of plural power source circuits as slave power source circuits, and connecting the master power source circuit to the slave power source circuits by means of CLK & HLT terminal. As argued in the last Amendment, such claimed structural arrangements are not disclosed in the cited prior art references, singly or in combination.

Accordingly, the above-mentioned structural arrangements pertaining to such connections in each of independent claims 29, 33, 35 and 36, as amended, are not disclosed in the cited prior art references, singly or in combination.

Moreover, the applicants submit that the applicants' instant claimed invention includes the claimed structural arrangements in which a shutdown circuit performs the following:

- 1) Detecting an abnormality of own power source circuit to output an abnormality signal to output control circuits of one or a plurality of other power source circuits selected from the plurality of power source circuits;

- 2) Inputting an abnormality signal outputted from the output control circuits of one or a plurality of the other power source circuits to shut down the own power source circuit when an abnormality is detected either in the own power source circuit or in the other power source circuits.

With such claimed structural arrangements, providing only a structural arrangement to input and output an abnormality signal mutually among output control circuits of one or a plurality of other power source circuits selected from the plurality of power source circuits (i.e., among any power source circuits of the plurality of power source circuits), makes possible simultaneous shut down of any plural power source circuits when an abnormality is detected in any output control circuit of any of these plural power source circuits.

On the other hand, Tominaga describes an apparatus for detecting an abnormality in its own triport UPS to cut off the own triport UPS from parallel operation. In Tominaga, however, only the own triport UPS in which an abnormality has been detected is cut off from parallel operation.

Incidentally, Tominaga describes a device in which an operation mode monitoring circuit 38 inputs an output from an AC input monitoring circuits 34 of other triport UPS. The Tominaga device generates a mode control signal and a parallel operation release signal of the own operation mode monitoring circuit. These signals differ from the abnormality signal in the

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applicants' instant claimed invention.

In other words, Tominaga fails to teach or suggest the main feature of the applicants' instant claimed invention; that is, simultaneous shut down is made possible of not only a power source circuit in which an abnormality is detected, but also other power source circuits whose output control circuits are connected with the output control circuit of the power source circuit via fault terminals HLT.

In view of the above, the applicants submit that not all of the claimed elements, as now recited in the amended claims filed herewith, are found in exactly the same situation and united in the same way to perform the identical function in Tominaga's device. Thus, there can be no anticipation of the applicants' claimed invention, as now set forth in the claims filed herewith, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on the teachings of Tominaga.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tominaga (U.S. Patent No. 5,237,208) is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

As to the outstanding obviousness rejection, the secondary reference of Luo merely discloses a device in which an abnormality signal and a synchronous signal are inputted and

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outputted through a single terminal, and, like Tominaga similarly fails to disclose that simultaneous shut down is made possible of not only a power source circuit in which an abnormality is detected, but also other power source circuits whose output control circuits are connected with the output control circuit of the power source circuit via fault terminals HLT.

Thus, the suggested combination of Tominaga in view of Luo would still fall far short in fully meeting the applicants' claimed invention, as now recited in the claims filed herewith. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have found the applicants' claimed invention obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Tominaga and Luo, singly or in combination.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Tominaga in view of Luo (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0073783) is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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